

**Order Of Worship**  
**St. John's United Church Of Christ**  
**500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446**  
**10:15 AM – September 23, 2018**

# We Gather For Worship

## **“First in Caring”**

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **PRELUDE**      Prelude on “Beach Spring” - Wilbur Held (Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service)

## INTROIT Children of God

\*OPENING HYMN Awake, Awake to Love and Work.....#89

#### \*REFLECTION ON THEME

## \*WE CONFESS OUR SINS

God, there are a lot of things we put first in our lives before caring. We confess that whether we are talking about caring for our neighbors, caring for strangers, caring for important issues, or even caring for our own physical, emotional, and spiritual health, it is often easier to simply say, "I don't care!" and go about our daily lives. The truth is, caring about people and things is not easy. It requires investment of time, energy, and heart and there is always a chance that our care could be rejected or unreciprocated. We fear that we will give our heart and resources to someone or something, only to discover that it didn't make a difference in the slightest and it was all a waste. Help us to learn from you, one who is always first in caring. Remind us that investing ourselves in someone or something is never a waste, but expands our hearts and allows us to grow deeper in relationship with one another and with you, making our lives richer and fuller. Amen.

## \*WE ASK FOR MERCY

God, tender and just, forgive our sins; forgive our sins.

\*WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

\*WE OFFER OUR PRAISE AND THANKS

Hymn #28 Stanza 4

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## This Week At St. John's

If you would like more information please contact the church office 215.855.5489 or [office@st-johns-ucc.org](mailto:office@st-johns-ucc.org)

Sept	23	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for all ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary New Member Informational Gathering
Sept	24	Mon	4:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Outreach Brownies/Girl Scouts Prayer Group
Sept	25	Tue	1:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Quilters Brownies/Girl Scouts AA
Sept	26	Wed	12:00 PM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	Communion Communion United Voices Children's Choir
Sept	27	Thu	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Prayer Walking Soup Preparation United Ringers Yoga Chancel Choir
Sept	28	Fri	8:00 AM 6:00 PM 8:30 PM	Soup Cooking Chess Club AA
Sept	29	Sat	10:00 AM	Art of Living
Sept	30	Sun	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:15 AM  12:00 PM	<b>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Morning Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School for all ages Morning Worship, Sanctuary Soup Sale, Set up for Rummage Sale Blessing of the Animals

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If you would like more information about St. John's please speak with one of the staff or visit our website at [www.stjohns.org](http://www.stjohns.org).

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Susan C. Bertolette, D. Min., Senior Pastor

Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div., Associate Pastor  
Lisa Ruth, Church Administrator

Lisa Delp, Church Administrator

David L. Furniss, M.S.M., Minister of Music  
Abbie Lampert, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children  
Laney Hart, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

## September 23, 2018

A nursery for children kindergarten age and younger is available. While children are always welcome in worship, this is available for your convenience if they become restless.

Junior Church is available following the children's message for children 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents may pick up children downstairs following the 10:15 service.

If you would benefit from having the worship bulletins or hymns in large print, please see one of our ushers.

Please ask an usher for an audio device if you are having difficulty hearing the service.

CD's of this morning's service are available by contacting the church office. Recent sermons can be heard on the Audio-Sermons page of our website <http://st-johns-ucc.org/podcast-audio>

*Reminder: The wheelchairs and first aid kit are stored in the "First Aid Closet" in the narthex (the door is clearly labeled). The automatic external defibrillator (AED) is located in the church Library on the wall closest to the Sanctuary.*

### Worship Assistants

**Ushers:** Team Leaders Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie; Mark Bruen, Peter Conver, Jeane Fritz, Nicole Groff, Vernon Hunsberger, Judy Koenig, and Charles Sisian

**CD Technician:** Bob George

**Driver:** Bob George

**Greeters:** Nancy Roberts and Betty Canfield

**Elder of the Morning:** Marcia Stacy

**Acolytes:** Emily and Ryan Donahue

**Junior Church:** Kim Sands

**Chancel Flower Ministry:** Eric & Anne Kinsey

**Nursery Staff:** Jen and Olivia Gilbert

**Social Hosts:** Grace & Mark Bruen

**Kitchen Monitors:** Steve Bossert

**Umbrella Ministry:** Marilyn Nannen

**United Adult Class:** Teachers – Cindy Benedict, “Mountain Sunday”, Isaiah 65:17-25; Mark 16:14-18

### We Listen For God's Word

SCRIPTURE      Mark 9:30-37 (Pg. 41)

James 3:13-4:3

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:7-8

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE      Susan C. Bertolette, D. Min.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

ANTHEM      He That Shall Endure from *Elijah* - Felix Mendelssohn  
Chancel Choir

SERMON      “Working Hard or Hardly Working?”  
Adelaide L. Stong, M. Div.

SILENCE

## We Respond in Faith

\*HYMN      O for a World..... #575

JOYS, CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE HAND OVER TO GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS      #775

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY      Awake, Awake to Love and Work - Wilbur Held

\*WE OFFER UP OUR GIFTS

Praise God, the Giver and the Gift. Hands, hearts and voices now uplift:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Breath of Glad Surprise, Freeing our spirits, opening eyes:  
Three in Oneness, love communing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
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\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* HYMN      Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (See insert)

\* COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*Denotes Congregation Standing, if Able

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Assembly Hall, the room below the sanctuary. All Are Welcome!!!

## **Manna Makes a Special Plea for Funds**

At St. John's most recent Council meeting, Rev. Sue shared a request from Manna, an organization that had its beginnings at St. John's and which continues to be a vital force in our community as it seeks to make sure that all are fed. As Manna's fiscal year draws to a close on September 30th, they are facing a deficit of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 ~ not because of an expense overage but because of a revenue deficit (funds and grants they have counted on in the past did not come through this year). Fortunately, Manna has reserves, so is not in danger of closing its doors, but the situation has been challenging for all involved. In the words of Executive Director Suzan Neiger Gould, "Our budget for next fiscal year is conservative with revenue at a sustainable level and cost held in most categories and cut in others."

St. John's Council voted unanimously to make a contribution of \$2,065 (using monies from our Good Samaritan Fund), this amount matching the total of individual gifts given by St. John's members to Manna thus far this year. Now we would like to challenge St. John's members to "match the match" ~ that is, to come up with another \$2,065 to direct toward Manna's immediate needs.

We are pleased to announce contributions in the amount of \$1,098 were given on September 16. If you would like to contribute toward this cause, please make your checks out to St. John's and write "Manna" on the memo line. We will need to have these contributions by today so that we can get them to Manna before their fiscal year ends on September 30th.

Many thanks for your consideration of this important matter.

## **Blessing of the Animals**

This event will take place on September 30th at noon under the big tree near the labyrinth/meditation garden. Bring along your beloved pet or a photo of your pet and join us for this time of celebrating all of God's creatures.